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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "BBER hires new director of health care industry research" (2009). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21583.
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NEWS RELEASE

June 9, 2009

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BBER HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY RESEARCH

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research has hired a new director of health care industry research who will examine the state's health care markets, trends, costs and other high visibility topics.

Gregg Davis was an economics faculty member at Flathead Valley Community College, where he directed the Center for Business Information and Research and chaired the Division of Social Sciences.

"Health care reform, while certainly not new, is at the forefront of national policy debate today," Davis said. "How Montanans fare to new policy direction will depend on the quality of the information available to policymakers and residents of Montana. This position really aligns itself to assist in the efforts to better understand the industry, both at the local and national level."

Davis earned an undergraduate anthropology degree (1975) and economics master's degree (1977) from UM and his mineral resource doctorate (1986) from West Virginia University. He will replace Patrick Barkey, who recently became BBER's director.

Following his graduate studies, Davis worked five years as a health economist for the federally funded Health Systems Agency in Helena. Throughout his career, Davis has specialized in conducting economic impact studies, including regional and wage studies for both the public and private sectors.

From 1995 to 2009, Davis chaired the FVCC Division of Social Sciences. There he founded CBIR, which conducts analysis and research for the state and Flathead economies.

Earlier in his career, Davis served as an associate professor of economics at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., where he established and directed that institution's Center for Business and Economic Research.

"We are excited to have someone with Gregg's experience and Montana-specific knowledge to fill this important role," Barkey said. "Health care policy is more of a challenge – and an opportunity – today than ever before."

BBER, housed in UM's School of Business Administration, has provided information about Montana's state and local economies for more than 50 years.

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